

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action mailed 12 December 2005.

Claims 1-30 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting in light of prior patent No. 6,684,923. A terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed, traversing the double patenting rejection of claim 1-30.

Claims 3-6 and 10-26 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) in light of Pascoe and Lehmann.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the strips extend "between two ends of the rotatable support member." Pascoe and Lehmann each discloses wavy elements which extend circumferentially around the outer surfaces of their respective devices. Thus, these references teach away from the structure recited in amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 1, and claim 2 which depends therefrom, are patentable over the cited references.

Claims 7-9, 19 and 27-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Paragraph [0035] of the description has been amended to provide explicit support for the features of claim 7. Since claim 7 formed part of the application as originally filed, no new matter has been introduced.

With respect to claims 8, 9 and 27-30, paragraph [0035] of the description provides support for the subject matter of the static coefficient of friction which does not exceed 1, and which does not exceed 4×10^{-1} .

Paragraph [0028] of the description has been amended to provide explicit support for the features of claim 19. Since claim 19 formed part of the application as originally filed, no new matter has been introduced.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph.

Claims 7-9, 19 and 27-30 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

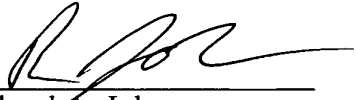
The Applicant fails to understand the basis for the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. As noted above, the features recited in claims 7-9, 19 and 27-30 are fully supported by the specification. Claim 7 clearly points out that the band of material has a low coefficient of static friction. Claims 8 and 27-30 clearly point out that the band of material has a coefficient of static friction which does not exceed 1. Claim 9 clearly points out that the band of material has a coefficient of static friction which does not exceed 4×10^{-1} . Claim 19 clearly points out that the leading and trailing abutment surfaces are provided by surfaces of the drum.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and remarks.

Respectfully submitted,
OYEN WIGGS GREEN & MUTALA LLP

By:


Richard A. Johnson
Registration No. 56,080
tel: 604.669.3432 ext. 9046
fax: 604.681.4081
e-mail: docket3@patentable.com